

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: ECOSOC, UNEP
SUBJ: 63RD ECOSOC; ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: (A) UN WATER CONFERENCE
(ITEM 16); (B) UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL REPORT (ITEM 12)

1. THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CONVENED MONDAY, JULY 11 TO
HEAR INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS BY WATER CONFERENCE SYG
MAGEED AND UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MOSTAFA TOLBA ON
SUBJECT ITEMS. (COPIES OF STATEMENTS POUCHED LOU KAHN,
IO/IEP).
STATEMENT OF WATER CONFERENCE SYG MAGEED

2. MAGEED'S INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT TOUCHED ON MOST
ASPECTS OF THE WATER CONFERENCE. HE CHARACTERIZED THE 5TH
CNR PROPOSAL TO HOLD AN EARLY 1978 SPECIAL SESSION ON WATER
(TO BE PRECEDED BY REGIONAL MEETINGS) AS AN EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY FOR NATIONAL LEVEL ASSESSMENTS OF THE MAR DEL
PLATA ACTION PLAN. REFERRING TO WATER CONFERENCE RESOLUTION
VIII, HE RECALLED THE CONFERENCE REQUEST FOR ACTION BY THE
REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.

3. ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, MAGEED: A) HIGHLIGHTED
THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE
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METHODS FOR INCREASING RESOURCES THROUGH EXISTING OR
PROPOSED FINANCING MECHANISMS, AND CALLED ATTENTION TO
ESTIMATES OF CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND
DRINKING WATER GIVEN IN THE CONFERENCE REPORT; B) HE
STRESSED THE NEED FOR A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH AND
DYNAMIC NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION RELATED TO THE
"INTERNATIONAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DECADE"

APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE IN RESOLUTION II DESIGNATED
FOR 1980-1990.

4. WITH REGARD TO INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, MAGEED
STATED THAT "THE OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY ... RESTS WITH
THE ECOSOC COUNCIL. NEW APPROACHES SHOULD THEREFORE BE EXPLORED
THROUGH WHICH THE LEADING ROLE OF THE (EXECUTING) AGENCIES
IS MAINTAINED BUT BROUGHT INTO RELATION WITH THE CENTRAL
ROLE OF THE COUNCIL."
STATEMENT OF UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOLBA

5. UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOLBA'S INTRODUCTION OF THE
UNEP GOVERNMENT COUNCIL (GC) REPORT (A/32/25) INCLUDED
COMMENTS ON THE HABITAT CONFERENCE AND THE FOUNDATION.
TOLBA INDICATED CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NATURAL
AND MAN-MADE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTED HE HAD SENT THE SYG THE
HABITAT PORTION OF THE GC REPORT. HE NOTED COUNCIL'S
APPROVAL OF HIS \$50 MILLION TARGET FOR 1978-81 FOR
THE FOUNDATION, AND THE REQUEST FOR THE SYG TO CONSIDER
A PLEDGING CONFERENCE AT THE 33RD UNGA.

6. RELATIVE TO THE UN ENVIRONMENT FUND, TOLBA NOTED THERE
WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT FUND RESOURCES SHOULD BE MAIN-
TAINED FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS AT LEAST AT LEVEL, IN REAL TERMS,
OF PAST FIVE YEARS. FURTHER "THE COUNCIL AGREED WITH MY
INTENTION TO SEEK VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FOUR
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YEARS 1978-81 AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL OF \$150 MILLION..."

7. ENVIRONMENTAL LAW. TOLBA NOTED THAT THE FINAL REPORT
ON THE STUDY OF MATERIAL REMNANTS OF WAR, WHICH "SUGGESTS
A COURSE OF ACTION," WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE 32ND UNGA.
TOLBA ALSO MENTIONED EXTENSION OF EXPERT GROUP PREPARING
DRAFT PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT ON SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES.

8. ON THE DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE HE STATED UNEP WAS
ON SCHEDULE WITH ITS PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE,
MENTIONING AN 8-YEAR INITIAL PLAN OF ACTION AND CASE STUDIES,
INCLUDING "STUDIES ON THE FEASIBILITY OF TRANSNATIONAL
ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION"; AND A POST-CONFERENCE
SEMINAR IN NAIROBI FOR PROFESSIONALS FROM COUNTRIES MOST

AFFECTED BY DESERTIFICATION. (HE ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO AN
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE, CONVENED BY UNESCO IN
COOPERATION WITH UNEP, TO BE HELD OCTOBER 1977 IN TBILISI
(USSR) AS PART OF COMPLEMENTARY FOLLOW-UP).

9. TOLBA ALSO TOUCHED UPON ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION
WITH THE UN (ECB), THE NEED TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

BETWEEN UNEP AND GOVERNMENTS, THE ANNUAL STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT, THE NEED TO FDCIURNING COUNCIL MEETINGS ON ONLY A PORTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM, EARTHWATCH, AS WELL AS OTHER MATTERS.
(FYI. A SIGN OF GROWING MATURITY: TOLBA DID NOT MAKE REFERENCE TO UNEP'S MEDITERRANEAN CONVENTION SUCCESS STORY. END FYI). VAN DEN HEUVEL

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